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RAILROAD CONVENTION. We would call the attention of the public generally, and especially of all persons imme-diately interested in Railroads, to the Circular to diately interested in Railroads, to the Circular to
the Presidents of Railroad Companies from the
committee of the meeting held in this city on the
3d inst. We understand that the meeting adjourned until the first Tuesday in March, that the
great convention to be held at New Orleans on
the first Monday in January may act upon the
proposed modification of the laws regulating mail
contracts. It is honed that the adjourned meetcontracts. It is hoped that the adjourned meet-ing will be fully attended, and that Railroad Companies who cannot conveniently send delegates will authorize their members of Congress or some one else to represent them.

[Circular.]
WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 10, 4851.
Siz: By the enclosed proceedings of a meeting held in this city on the 3d instant, it was made the duty of the undersigned as a committee to correspond with the second to the contract of the con made the duty of the undersigned as a commit-tee to correspond with the several railroad com-panies in the United States, and to report to an adjourned meeting, to be held in this city on the first Tuesday in March next, to consider a prop-osition to petition Congress for a change in the law regulating mail contracts, so as to enable the Post Office Department to deliver to railroad com-panies United States five per cent. coupon bonds, mon permanent contracts for carrying the mail. upon permanent contracts for carrying the mail, to an amount the interest upon which, at five per cent., would be equal to the payments to be made under existing laws; and they therefore respect-fully call the attention of your company to the subject, and invite your co-operation. They greatly prefer that you should send delegates to the adjourned meeting; for the opinions expressed by a convention of practical men, representing so much wealth, enterprise, and intelligence, will command, as they will deserve, the confidence and respect of Congress, and thus promote the adop-tion of such details as may be agreed upon in convention; but if it should not be convenient to end delegates, we would ask your company to submit, through us, your wishes and opinions upon the main proposition, and upon the details connected therewith.

connected therewith.

It is well known that many persons are opposed to internal improvements by the general government—some denying the power of Congress to make appropriations for that object; others fearing that the exercise of such power would lead to combinations resulting in partial and unjust legislation. It will be seen that the proposition under consideration is free from these objections. It asks no appropriation of money in aid of the It asks no appropriation of money in aid of the construction of railroads. The contracts will be estricted to the service which the several raiload companies are in condition to execute when the payments are made.

It is true that the proposed modification of the laws regulating mail contracts will give similar payments pro rata, as new roads are made and as the credit and resources of railroad companies The same effect, although to a less extent, results from existing laws, and surely it cannot be urged as a valid objection to the proposed change that it will aid in the extension of the railroad system. We claim as a merit, that the proposed modification will aid in extending the system by giving greater value to railroad investments. Inder existing laws contracts are made for four years, and the payments are continued, if not in-creased ad infinitum. Under the proposed modi-fication the contracts will be made, giving the United States the perpetual use of railroads; and the rate of compensation is so reduced that, at the end of thirty-three years, the payments will cease, and the department will forever thereafte have the use of such railroad free of all charge.

It is objected that old routes may be supereded by new ones, and the present service diminished as to render it inexpedient to make permanent contracts at the rates proposed. It has also been objected that railroads now in use may be discontinued, and that such railroad commay be discontinued, and that such railroad com-panies cannot protect the department from loss. We answer these objections by assuming that the contracts will be made by a board appointed for that purpose, and that no contracts will be given unless that board be fully satisfied that mail service adequate to the payments will be amply secured to the United States.

We desire to obtain the views of your company

upon these and all other matters of detail, and respectfully ask of you to furnish us such statis as will enable us to submit to the convention and to Congress a statement showing the com-parative increase or diminution, as the case may oe, of the mail service performed by your com pany—the past, and probable future increase of he weight of mails carried over the route of your road. And in this connexion we wish to learn what, in your opinion, will be the probable increased weight of the mails, if newspapers and

periodicals are sent free of postage.

We wish you also to state what is the present current price of your shares, what rate of dividend does your company now pay, and what divi-dend could you pay under a contract such as we

propose.

The committee venture to invite the co-operation of the railroad convention to be held in New Orleans on the first Monday of January, and that the newspapers in the South and West will urge upon all those who are interested in railroads or in the extension of the system a favorable consideration of the measure proposed, and the necessity of prompt and efficient co-operation. In behalf of the committee,

DUFF GREEN, Chairman.

Proceedings of a Meeting held in Washington City on the 3d December, 1861.

At a meeting of gentlemen, assembled, at the request of Gen. Duff Green, to consider a project for modifying the existing laws regulating the letting of mails to railroad corporations—

Gen. Morton, of Florida, was chosen president, and Albert Smith of Mains, secretary.

Gen. Morton, of Florida, was chosen president, and Albert Smith, of Maine, secretary.

The meeting was addressed by Gen. Green in explanation of his proposition; after which, a desultory conversation was held by all the gentlemen present, and the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, with authority to correspond with the several railroad companies in the United States upon the subject of an application to Congress for a change in the mode of compensation for transporting the mails on railroads, and to digest a plan, to be submitted to a meeting to be hereafter convened by the said committee."

sid committee."

Gen. Duff. Green, Mr. Blunt, of Florida, Albert Smith, of Maine, Robert H. Gellaher and Col. Fontaine, of Virginia, Fere chosen said committee.

Voted, that the meeting be adjourned.

ALBERT SMITH, Secretary.

ALBERT SMITH, Secretary.

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jan 14—tr [Wash. News.]

IMPORTANT TO THE DEAF.

IMPORTANT TO THE DEAF.

DOCTOR HARTLY, AURIST, from the Ear Infirmary, 199 Arch street, Philadelphia, begs to announce his return to this city for a few days. The number and importance of the cases under his care on his recent visit, and the gratifying amount of success which attended his treatment have induced him to expedite his return. His stay here will depend much upon circumstances; and it will be advisable for those who wish to consult him to make an early call. Residence over Myers's Dry-goods store, between 9th and 10th streets, Pennsylvania avenue. Consultation and examination fee, §1.

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T. C. C.

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jan 5— [Wash. News.] Feventh street.

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SHAVING APPARATUS.

"The upshot of the matter was, that we were to be separated. Tom was to be sent away to school, while I remained at home. The words sent away operated on me like magic; they opened a hope of escape, and wrung from me, what nothing else could have done, namely, a confession my guilt, and an earnest request that I mix to be sent away instead of Tom. I even—my mock humiliation farther, appears to the sent away instead of I alone was guilty, I alone dess sent away instead of the shape ment!

"What do on think I was told, Fred Martyn? Why, just what they told every one else, that I was so hopelessly and inherently wicked—so utterly and irredecmably vile and worthless—that it would be an imposition to ask any stranger to take me into his family; that no one confid be expected to bear with me but those connected by ties of blood; that it was a sore trial, but as it had pleased Providence to you did not"send me to them, doubtless as a cross, they would try to bear it with Christian patience; hoarsely. "No; have I not said that I am respectable? I was not so merciful as that. When she flung herself between me and that rascal, I turned from him, and blasted her with

but me!

room and

was reported!'

"The sight maddened me. I sprang into the

"Kill them on the spot!" he interrupted,

my curses. I don't know what I did or said;

is the look of grief, surprise, terror, and pity, which she gave me, as I flung her from my arm, to which she attempted to cling, and Tom Al-

ling's exulting tone, as cowering beyond the

reach of my arm, with his hand on the handle

of the door, he exclaimed- You see, my dear,

that the stories are all true, even worse than

meet me, with such a lie in his mouth, alone-

he told me that I was a beggar; that all prop-

erty left by my father had been insufficient to pay my expenses, and upbraided me with my dissolute, licentious habits—I, who was as inno-cent as a child! He even taunted me with

no means ungrateful. It is a good and pleas-

ilence that followed the old man's words.

Was that Mr. Renwick? Our granite-faced,

"She was innocent! She must have been

take! You left her, and she died of a broken

sin against me, but the victim of Tom Alling's

villanous schemes. It seems he had noted th

her for his prey some months before. His first care had been to get rid of me; and then he

are found in every place, ready to do the devil's work, he circulated all manner of lies about

me, and the reason of my absence; while he, double-and-twisted villain that he was, assumed

the part of an aggrieved friend, and made a

feint at defending, or at least excusing me, in the presence of Rachel, which, knowing the

cool relations that had ever subsisted between

us, she in her guilelessness took to be an evi-

dence of real nobleness of mind and heart.

Had I only heard her that night, had I been

anything but a madman, I should have learned

that it was gratitude for what she deemed his disinterested friendship for me, that led to that

interview. It was long before I heard from her again; and then, the fact that she was the

wife of Tom Alling only confirmed me in my

opinions. Years afterward, when it was all too

late, I learned my mistake. Business called me to my native State; and while there, I visited

C____, more to spite myself for the cowardly feeling that made me wince at the thought of

it, than for anything else. No one recognised me; and I might have left the village without

any one being the wiser for my presence, if I had not yielded to my desire to visit my father's

old housekeeper, whom I found was living still.

I could not deceive her. Partly my questions, and partly my voice, betrayed me; and from her I learned that which took from me the

sense of injury, and loaded me with that of

umnies; how she had struggled against the

united influence of her mother and her friends,

guilt.

misery on her thin, sunken face!"

us all by her earnest exclamation-

face and attitude!

heart! Was it not so?"

"One thing more I remember: the cold,

was mad. All that I remember of that scene

and so on, to the end of the chapter. "I listened to all this with undisguised indignation and contempt. I knew that it was because my property was in their hands, and they were unwilling to see a cent of it go into another person's, that they refused to let me go. I knew that Tom had often beat me within an inch of my life, without having the vials of began to regret that I did not pay him off more liberally. So the hardening process went on, and all that saved me from becoming a very brute was the influence of that girl of whom I spoke, Rachel Halliday. She was the daughter of Widow Halliday, our neighbor, a poor, proud, ambitious woman, but Rachel

"An angel!" exclaimed Ed, suddenly and almost unconsciously supplying the word for

which the old man seemed groping.

"No; not an angel, boy. I don't think the angels ever troubled themselves much about me, either that time or since, and she did. She was a true-hearted, gentle, loving girl—better than a dozen angels to me; for she alone seemed to know me as I was, or, rather, as I might have been, and tried me make me bet-ter. We were schoolmates, and in the winter, when the snow was deep, I used to go on be-fore to make her a path, or draw her on my sled, wondering all the time why Tom didn't try to take her from me, as he did everything else that I loved. But she was too little and insignificant for him to care about then. People talk about childish feelings and childish friendships," went on the old man, after a pause, "and the ease with which they are erased or forgotten; but it is not so, Fred Martyn. Boy as I was the feeling that I cherished for that girl was the ruling influence of my life; for her I struggled to subdue my quick. fiery temper—for her I strove for the prize of scholarship in the village school—for her I bore all things and hoped all things; and she, even while she gently blamed me for giving way to my passion, reconciled me to the thought of staying there after that affair with

"We were but children then; but as the years went on, there came, even to me, a magical change over her. From a little, pale, some what feeble girl, she bloomed into a lovely wo-man—tall, fair, graceful as a lily, and I—well, I may as well out with it—I worshipped her as only strong, impetuous natures, that have been defrauded of their share of human love in the world, can worship. You, children, with so many outlets to your hearts, can never know

what she was to me. "But to go on. My guardian, as I said. kept a country store, and, as my talent for business had been discovered from my waiting on cus-tomers night and morning and on holydays, at sixteen I was taken from school, and installed as clerk in the store. Tom had entered college a year or two before, for he was to shine in a profession; so I saw little of him save at vacations, and though the feeling between us was not quite after the David and Jonathan order, we got on right peaceably. The drubbing had given him so many years before, followed up by those he got at school, had improved his

manners in some respects, considerably.

"Thus, the weeks sped on, and I was twenty. But one year more, and I should be free. How Rachel and I counted the days! (for you must know, children, that by this time all things be-tween us were settled.) What fools we were, dreaming all sorts of pleasant dreams that were to end smoke! Well, we were happy then and it is no small thing for any man, in look ing back over a track of sixty years, to be able to lay his finger on any one point, and say-

Then I was happy! "Tom spent that summer vacation at home but I saw less of him than usual, for he was much abroad among the village girls, with whom his college airs took wonderfully. On Rachel they were wholly lost, for she avoided him as much as possible. It so happened, that just at this time it was necessary that some one should go out to Western New York, which was 'the West' of my boyhood, to look after certain wild lands, upon which Mr. Alling had contrived to get some claim. That gentleman urged Tom to go, but the latter declined, and, to my great surprise, launched into a panegyric on my rare business tact, and proposed that I should be sent. Mr. Alling caught at the suggestion at once; he well knew that I did possess qualifications for the business, which Tom lacked; besides, if ague and fever, or any other evil incident to that unsettled region, happened to me, it would not be of much consequence any way. I was delighted with the prospect of getting away, though very careful not to show it; and let me add, that I should have run away a dozen times during the past years, had it not been for the thought of Rachel, and gratfying Mr. Alling by leaving my property in his hands. So the Western journey was ar-ranged, and I went away, thinking that, after all, Tom might turn out quite a decent fellow. "I was a fool-a natural-born fool!" muttered the old man, after a moment's silence. "I

until, weary and despairing, she had consented to become Tom Alling's wife; how the ill-gotten gains of my old guardian had been scat-tered to the four winds of heaven, and the wife of his son and heir had been indebted to my old friend for a shelter during the last days her life, while Tom was a common drunkard about the streets. She had died the night beshould have known that the devil was at the fore my arrival; and when I stood by that open coffin, and heard of all that wretch's brutality bottom of that show of friendship! But I went; oward her; how in drunken fits he had boast for many weeks I was a free man, roaming ed of his outwitting me, and taunted her with through the untrodden wilderness, and thinkbeing his dupe-when I looked upon that poor, ing-well, thinking of Rachel, and making each opening in the grand old woods a setting for pale, sunken face, and thought of all she was and all she might have been, do you wonder that I felt myself a murderer?" ner sweet face. At last my business was completed, and in a way which I knew would be ac-

a long journey in those days, and the last stages lence.
I made partly on foot. I reached the village "Ye "Yes, and great as was my share of the President.

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH.

[From the National Era.]

MR. RENWICK'S STORY.

[CONCLUDED.]

"The upshot of the matter was, that we were to be senarated. Tom was to be sent."

In the dark of twilight, and wishing to see Rachel first of all, and give her a surprise, I can be supported as a surprise, I conclude the old man, solemnly. We were all silent for some moments, until Mr. Renwick, catching the glance of Rebecca fixed upon him with a puzzled sort of an expression, said, with an approach towards his usual bluff, humorous tone—

"Well, what is it, child?"

"Well, what is it, child?"

"Well, what is it, child?"

"I was trying to identify you with the box

"I was trying to identify you with the boy of whom you have been speaking. It seems so odd; for, somehow, I never have thought of you

"Anything but an old simpleton," he inter-rupted, with a smile. "I suppose not any more than, two hours ago, I thought of turning myself wrong side outwards to gratify such

"But, Mr. Renwick"——
"But Mr. Renwick!" cried the old gentle-"But Mr. Renwick!" cried the old gentleman, in a tone of mimicry, suddenly cutting
short Ed's query, whatever it might have been.
"Heaven help the boy! Does he suppose that
I have nothing else to do but sit here, like an
old granny, answering questions all night!
Go to bed, children, and forget every word
that I have said to night, all but this;" and he
laid his hand upon Ed's brown locks, and said
in a voice that was all the more touching from
its sudden contrast to his tone a moment me-He paused and the great veins in his tem-ples grew livid and rigid in the effort he made to control the emotion which these memories its sudden contrast to his tone a momen vious, "Never-never, as you hope for happiness in this world, part in anger from one you

> THOUGHTS. FROM A FORTHCOMING WORK.

love!

BY HENRY L. HARVEY. The sudden elevation of a person beyond the condition for which nature and education may have fitted him, whether in the possession of wealth or position in society, is liable to cause his ruin. On this point there is a very expressive Arabic proverb, that "when God purposes the destruction of an ant, he allows wings to grow upon it." The reason is that, in regard sneering, rascally, hypocritical face of my guardian, when, half an hour later, supported by his wife—for he had not the courage to grow upon it." The reason is that, in regard to wealth, most men are capable of enjoying, or applying to useful purposes, only a limited amount, beyond which they have no criterion for estimating the value. Social position, the appropriate attendant of mental capacity and moral character, can only be appreciated and maintained where the mind is prepared for it, and the character of the possessor entitles him

having eaten the bread of charity. I did not stay to hear the details of this villany, for vil-Envious and malignant minds, which have never risen above their native levels, frequently delight in reminding those persons who have gained elevation of character of what they had been, rather than in awarding praise for meritorious conduct, through which alone emissions are the statement of the sta lany I knew it to be, but put the climax to the character it had been their aim for years to give me, by seizing a splendidly-bound copy of the Bible, which was always ostentatiously displayed upon the table, and flinging it at his head. That night I left C——. My youth was but the type, it seems, of my future; for in manhood and old age I have been but a housenence can be attained. The best way to si-lence such, is to convince them that their ebullitions of spleen can have no weight upon the feelings of those on whom they are designed to act. A mechanic, who had performed ind ferentless, homeless wanderer. You need not look so grieved," he added, as he met Rebecca's act. A mechanic, who had performed ind. Herently a piece of work for Harrison Gray Otis, in a dispute with the latter about the affair, thought to carry his point by reminding him that he had known him when he was "only a drummer." Instead of heing mortified or disconcerted by the taunt, the wealthy merchant calmly replied, by the significant question, "and did I not drum well?" half-tearful, half-reproachful glance, "I am by ant home you have given me, one in which the crusty old man grows young again; else, you may depend upon it, you would never have heard what he has told you to-night; but it is not the home I dreamed about in my youth."

"Did you never go beek? Did you never

"Did you never go back? Did you never see her again?" I asked, timidly breaking the He that idly waits for opportunities for great achievements, without improving the chances daily occurring for doing good, though on a small scale, stands a poor chance for attaining the object of his ambition. Indolence enervates "Once more, child. When I saw her again, she lay in her coffin, with her white shroud folded about her, and the traces of an age of the mental and physical faculties, rendering them incapable of great accomplishments when ron-nerved Mr. Renwick, that sat there gazing the opportunity may occur. Activity not only gives strength to the faculties—the better fitinto the glowing anthracite with such an expression of unutterable sorrow in his whole ting them for performing the duties of lifebut, by bringing the person into notice, pro-duces or places him in contact with the oppor-tunity for their great exercise. Well might we doubt, until Rebecca startled

A moderate adherence to prevailing fashions and customs is proper in all cases and by all persons. The best writers on etiquette depreinnocent!" she cried. "There was some miscate eccentricity in dress and behaviour. Slovenliness and rudeness are equally repre-bensible with extravagance of apparel and "Worse, child; she lived with a broken heart. You are right; she was innocent of all overwrought politeness. Extremes of either, designed to attract notice, are not commendchange in her personal appearance, and marked

able nor entitled to respect. Elevation of character can only be attained care had been to get rid of me; and then he set to work. By means of certain tools, who is the basis of grovelling actions. He that would improve in intellect or character must not permit his thoughts to dwell on subjects beneath his present standard, but maintain a constant search for those more ennobling and praiseworthy.

Compared to the eternity from which we sprang, and the eternity to which we are has tening, this world is a mere dressing-room, in which we enter to array ourselves for the great entertainment prepared or preparing by the King of kings. In selecting and adjusting our garments, we should bear in mind that the tastes and fancies of those who are present with us, and upon the same errand, are but secondary matters for consideration, and not to be consulted or imitated only as we have rea-son to believe they may be pleasing to him whom we are professedly going to honor.

Governments instituted for the benefit of the governing are taxes upon the rights of the governed. Offices created for the convenience of the holders, with salaries beyond the value of the service rendered, are oppressive upon the people and corrupting to public morals.

A "Nigger" in a Fix.

On a certain cold night during the late cold spell, a runaway negro was caught in Yorktown, and put in the jail there. The rascal had some matches about him, and, negro-like, without looking to the consequences, used them to set fire to the jail. In a short time, however, his quarters became so warm that he was frightened into giv-"Rachel Halliday lay dead in her house, and it was over her coffin that I heard how my own conduct on that night had been brought against me as proof of the truth of those calbecame so warm that he was frightened into giv-ing the alarm, which, fortunately for both him-self and the jail, was heard, and soon roused the inhabitants. When they had broken through the door of the room in which the negro was confined, he had his face pressed close against the window bars, to catch the fresh air, being almost in a fainting state from the dense smoke of the fire. It was with great difficulty that he was rescued, and with still greater that the jail was saved from destruction, the fire having gained such headway, that it was several times proposed to let it alone

[Norfolk Beacon. Thurlow Weed, esq., who is now in Paris, has discovered a painting of the Genesee Falls, New York, executed in 1795 by the brother of Louis Philippe, while they were passing through the country to Niagara Falls. The owner has consented, at the solicitation of w.r. Weed, that this ancient painting, the first ever made of the Falls, should be presented to the city of Rochester.

Every newspaper office in France has a guard ceptable to my guardian, for it was in his favor, and in high spirits I started for home. It was said Fred, at length, breaking the deep si-